

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action of May 3, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application as now amended are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the specification and appropriate amendments have been made to overcome each of the recited informalities.

The Office Action further objects to claims 1-3 on formal grounds and appropriate amendments have been made to claims 1 and 2 to obviate those objections. Concerning the objection to claim 3 set forth in the Office Action, the antecedent basis for "the one threaded end" appears at claim 3, line 2, so that no further amendment to that claim is believed necessary.

Concerning rejections on the merits, claim 1 as set out in applicant's amendment of January 6, 2005, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Blank patent 3,709,624. Likewise, claims 2-5 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blank '624 patent when combined with other references, including Hendrick 4,585,025 and Johnson 1,937,965. Claims 6-9 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were found to be allowable when rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

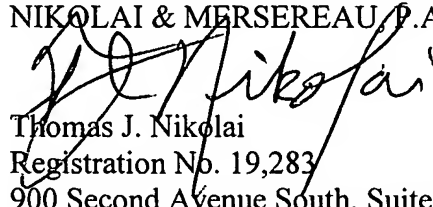
By the present amendment, the limitations of allowable claim 6 and intermediate claims 5 and 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1 thereby rendering claim 1 allowable. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled.

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In that all of the claims now remaining in the application depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1, all of those dependent claims are also now in allowable form. As such, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Nikolai", is written over the printed name and firm name.


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### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is filed in response to the Official Action of May 3, 2005, in application Serial No. 10/625,368, filed on July 23, 2003, of Donato L. Ricci, entitled "Slitting Saw" is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, postage prepaid, on June 6, 2005.

Date of Signature: June 6, 2005.

  
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Linda J. Rice  
On Behalf of Thomas J. Nikolai  
Attorney for Applicant(s)